our fourfooted friends

Animal Rescue League of Boston • Fall 1990

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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American Humane Association
Denver, Colorado

World Society for the Protection of Animals
Boston, MA (Regional Office)

Fall 1990
Volume 87, No. 3

COVER:

SUMMER SCHOOL DAYS – A young camper gets some pointers from Animal Friends Summer School director Edward Powers (see story on p. 7). Photo courtesy of *Cape Cod Times*.

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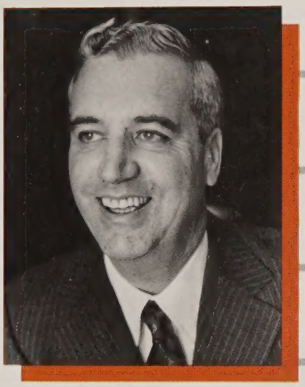
Our Fourfooted Friends
(US ISSN 0030 6851) *Published quarterly by the Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221.* Price $4.00 a year. Office of Publication, Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, MA 02116-5221. Address all correspondence, editorial, subscriptions to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265, Post Master: Send address changes to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117-0265. Second Class Postage has been paid at Boston, Massachusetts, and other mailing locations.



Arthur G. Slade, *President*

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Threat to Animal Welfare

The Animal Welfare Act, America's principal federal law for the protection of laboratory animals, is being threatened and we need all of our members and animal friends to be aware of this problem and to write to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In the Federal Register of August 15, 1990, the USDA has reproposed some previously proposed animal care regulations, and the new revision drastically weakens the standards for the care of laboratory dogs, cats, monkeys and other non-human primates.

It is important that our government officials and political leaders hear from individual members of the public as well as from the specific humane organizations. To this end, your assistance in making your feelings known in a letter or two will be a great help!

One section of the new provisions relates to mesh floors in the animal cages. These can be harsh on animals confined for extended periods of time. Mesh that is small enough to prevent the animal's paws from going through it is also probably too small to allow the passage of fecal material through it and thus the inclination is to go for mesh which is too large for the comfort of the animals.

Another shortcoming involves the fact that dogs in group housing are not required to be released for exercise provided they have a minimum amount of cage floor space. The animals that are released for exercise are the ones kept in substandard cages. All dogs are supposed to be removed from their cages for exercise. The newly proposed revision of the regulations does not reflect the intent of Congress as indicated in the 1985 Amendment to the Animal Welfare Act.

Section 3.82 of the new regulations states that cages may be steam cleaned with primates still in them. Obviously, these animals cannot possibly be adequately protected from either deliberate or inadvertent cruelty when they are inside a cage that is being steam cleaned.

Another regulation allows a somewhat similar provision for a dog or cat if there is some way to protect them from direct injury.

These so called "performance standards" are not humane or realistic to enforce. Please urge in your letter to the USDA that straightforward specifics called "engineering standards" be substituted in place of these unworkable proposals.

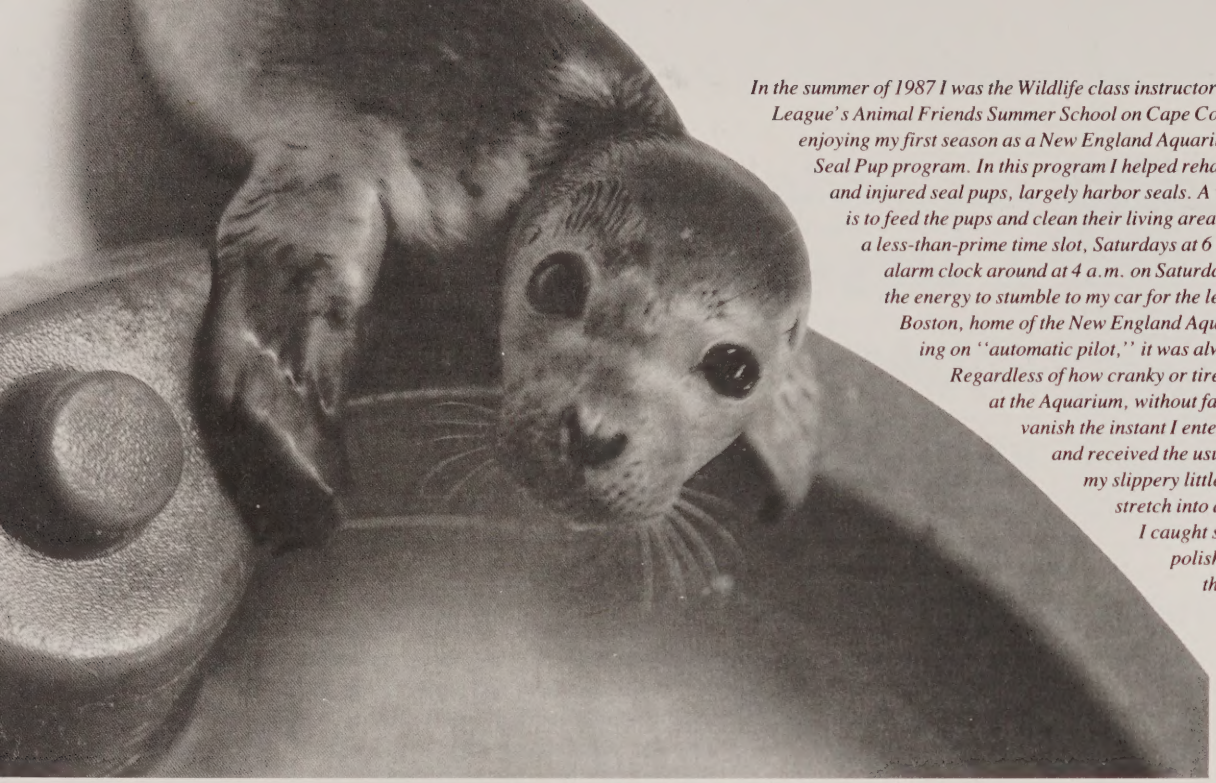
The person to write to is:

Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development
PPD, APHIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 1839
Hyattsville, MD 20788
Ref: Docket #90-040

It will also be helpful to send copies of your letter to your U.S. Senator and Representative.

Senators may be addressed at:
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representatives may be addressed at:
House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



In the summer of 1987 I was the Wildlife class instructor and assistant director at the League's Animal Friends Summer School on Cape Cod. I also had the privilege of enjoying my first season as a New England Aquarium volunteer assigned to the Seal Pup program. In this program I helped rehabilitate, for release, orphaned and injured seal pups, largely harbor seals. A volunteer's primary function is to feed the pups and clean their living area. As a new volunteer, I drew a less-than-prime time slot, Saturdays at 6 a.m. I remember slapping my alarm clock around at 4 a.m. on Saturdays and then somehow finding the energy to stumble to my car for the lengthy trek from Cape Cod to Boston, home of the New England Aquarium. I made the trip functioning on "automatic pilot," it was always a blur to me afterward. Regardless of how cranky or tired I was prior to arriving at the Aquarium, without fail, all negativity would vanish the instant I entered the Animal Care Center and received the usual raucous greeting from my slippery little charges. My mouth would stretch into an automatic grin as soon as I caught sight of their eyes like large, polished rounds of black onyx and their streamlined, torpedo-shaped bodies flip-flopping toward me while all the time demanding food in a voice so human sounding it was eerie. It was impossible to forget the importance of "feeding time" when in the company of seal pups.

Rescued seal pups quickly adapt to man-made surroundings, especially their "Mr. Turtle" swimming pool.

"SEALED" FATE

By Terrie Bierig-Neyland

The rehabilitation of orphaned and injured seal pups is one of many services the New England Aquarium performs for the marine mammal community. The New England Aquarium's Marine Mammal Stranding program began when their doors first opened in 1968. In fact, the researchers and marine biologists at the New England Aquarium have distinguished themselves as leaders in the development of response procedures in the rescue of stranded marine mammals. Through developing and refining the medical care given to rehabilitative marine mammals, the researchers have also become an international source for such information. Perhaps the most celebrated and unique case of a successful marine mammal rescue executed by the New England Aquarium was the 1987 rescue of three young pilot whales. These whales were salvaged from a mass stranding of a pilot whale pod on Cape Cod, transported to the Aquarium, given expert medical care while they regained their strength, and were subsequently released together and tracked until it was determined that they had been integrated into another pilot whale pod. This unprecedented success provided vitally important information that the New England Aquarium has since shared with marine scientists from around the world.

Although possibly less dramatic than saving a marine mammoth like a whale, the rescue and rehabilitation of orphaned seal pups is an integral part of the New England Aquarium's long-term commitment to aiding marine mammals in distress. According to Greg Early, associate curator of animal care, "The New England Aquarium has dealt with orphaned or injured seal pups since opening in 1968, however, the existing seal pup rehabilitation and release program was not formally organized until 1983." It was the need for an organized program that initiated the formation of a seal pup volunteer program. As the animal care staff accepted more and more seal pups each year, the time required for their care necessitated calling in volunteers to help feed the seals and maintain their living area.

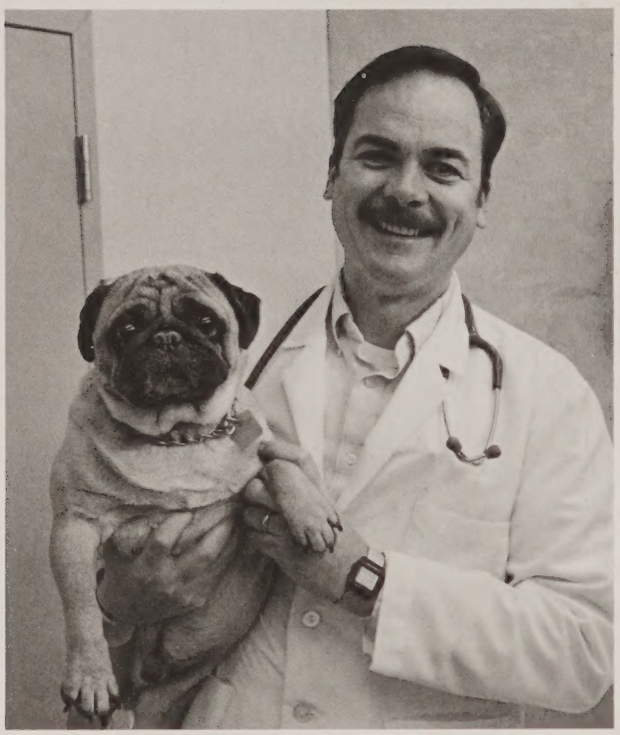
Why all the effort to save the pups? According to Greg Early, "The harbor seal population is, by all indications, not currently in jeopardy. We do not turn away from an orphaned pup because we have all this expertise and we are here to help." Each season spent working with the pups yields more important knowledge about their physiology and care requirements, knowledge that can then be utilized in the rehabilitation of the occasional hooded or grey seal that lands in the Animal Care Center. Early recalls one grey seal in particular named "Patrick," "We got Patrick into Animal Care when we were still working out of one lab and, if you know anything about grey seals, they are not particularly tame. That was six or seven years ago and I still remember trying to work in the lab while Patrick was snarling, snorting, and snapping at everyone. He was quite a character." Despite this one favorite, Early admits that, "There is always another one that pops up. They are all individuals."

The seal pups are started on a rich formula dubbed the Fabulous Fish Formula which is bolstered or diluted according to each seal pup's health status and tolerance to the concoction. The formula's recipe is the result of years of perfecting it to satisfy the dietary needs of the pups

while also being acceptable to their digestive systems. If the pups do well on the formula, they are eventually weaned onto whole fish. It is quite humorous to see the pup's first reaction to the smelly fish being dangled above their nose. They seem genuinely shocked that the fish is being thrust at them at all and then they flip flop away, into the pool, in disgust. "We often find ourselves playing mind games with them to get them to eat," admitted Early. Hunger overrules initial disgust and the pups soon regularly swallow their slippery rations. The pups also catch and eat live fish. Early explains, "We have found that the seals do not need to learn how to catch fish, they are naturally very curious about everything that moves and they initially treat the live fish like toys. They basicallly then learn to swallow their toys — fish." A pup stays at the Animal Care Center about three to four months before it is ready to be released. Each pup is evaluated prior to being released; its weight, behavior, and health are all important factors in deciding the time of release. Although there are not yet statistics on survival rates of all the pups, there have been seals fitted with radio tags that were found to have been acclimated and exhibiting normal, wild seal behavior within two weeks of their release.

It is against the law to touch, transport, or otherwise interact with wild seals. Many well-meaning people have caused further harm to seal pups by taking them home and force feeding them various homemade formulas. These seals inevitably become ill as a result of these misguided efforts and, when they are finally brought to the Aquarium, it is too late to save them. If you see a seal pup that you *think* has been abandoned, Greg Early suggests that you call the marine mammal stranding hotline at 617-973-5247 and report the sighting. "I advise that someone then watch the seal for a tidecycle or twenty-four hours," Early explains, "to watch for the mother to return in the event that she is only fishing." It is common for seal pups to be left hidden on the beach or rocks while the mother goes off to fish. Do not ever remove or enclose a seal pup unless there is a "life-threatening problem, such as dogs attacking it, or an obvious and serious wound," advises Early.

I have just completed my third season in the seal pup volunteer program and I am already counting the hours until the 1991 program begins. I think my fate was "sealed" the first time I stepped into their midst in 1987.



A Veterinary Update

Fleas and Tapeworms: A Vicious Cycle

By Edward A. Leonard, D.V.M.

Most pet owners are familiar with the majority of health problems that fleas can cause if allowed to go unchecked, but few are aware that the flea is also a carrier of a second parasite that is harmful to animals, and sometimes to humans.

The flea is the intermediate host for the most common type of tapeworm that infects dogs and cats, a parasite that can grow to a foot or more in length, robs the dog or cat host of needed nutrients, and can even be passed onto humans, especially children who may accidentally swallow an infected flea.

While not a serious health threat to a pet, a tapeworm infection can cause lethargy, diarrhea and a dull or rough coat. Fortunately your veterinarian can prescribe medication that will easily control and treat tapeworm infection, but it must be accompanied by effective flea control, or the tapeworms will reoccur.

Here's how the vicious cycle works: the terminal segments of an adult tapeworm, which is attached to the host animal's digestive tract, periodically break off and are passed with the feces. These segments are mobile for the first fifteen minutes or so, but then dry up and release eggs into the environment. Flea larvae in the area eat these eggs, which hatch within the maturing flea. During normal grooming, a dog or cat will ingest infected fleas and the tapeworm is thus reintroduced into the pet's system.

A fecal examination can detect tapeworms, but because of the sporadic nature of the infection, a series of repeated examinations may be needed to confirm the presence of the parasite. Pet owners, therefore, should be on the alert for signs of tapeworms, particularly if they know that fleas are present. In addition to lethargy and diarrhea, another common symptom of tapeworms is "scooting," a term used to describe an animal's sitting down and dragging itself around on its tail to relieve irritation and itching in the anal area. The most definite, and unsettling, signal of tapeworm infestation, however, is the presence of the wriggling tapeworm segments on your pet's hindquarters, in its feces, or even on carpets or furniture. The segments look like grains of rice and will shrivel up when exposed to air and the eggs are released.

Fortunately, the flea/tapeworm life cycle can be broken, but only with a combined program of tapeworm treatment, plus an aggressive program to control fleas on your pet, in your home, and in your yard.

There is another species of tapeworms which are not transmitted by fleas, but cycle through rabbits to dogs, and through mice and rodents to cats. In addition, there are two rare forms, found only in a few locations in the United States (Southwest and North Central) which can cause tumor-like cysts in humans who are accidentally infected. Because of the serious health threat posed to humans, it is recommended that dogs in these areas receive regular preventive treatment if they are exposed to sheep or rodents, which are the intermediate hosts.

New Vaccine Prevents Lyme Disease in Dogs

Lyme disease, a serious illness transmitted by ticks to wild and domestic animals, and to humans, can now be prevented in dogs by a new vaccine which became available this year. Tests have shown the vaccine, known as Borrelia Burgdorferi Bacterin, to be safe and effective, with a duration of immunity that lasts throughout tick season.

''Lily'' the calf, who made her debut during the summer school session, is shown here with counselor Rachel Parady and camper David Aronson, 12.

"Tubular" Times at Summer School '90

By Chase Delaney

Meg combed the beach and discovered a feisty hermit crab ambling along among the pebbles and stones of the rocky shore. She picked it up, examined it and exclaimed, ''Oh! Can I bring it back to our tank?'' ''Sure!'' said Paul encouragingly. Paul, co-instructor of Ocean Ecology at the Animal Friends Summer School, was always enthusiastic about a new and precious ''find'' that could be an interesting addition to the salt water aquarium in the Ocean Ecology classroom. ''I think I'll find him a rock to sit on in the bucket while I bring him back. After all, he was sitting on one when I found him,'' said Meg.

Care and respect of animals have motivated the Animal Friends Summer School since it's founding in 1947. There are many special moments that make up the dynamic and not-to-be forgotten educational summer experience offered here. A well-rounded exposure to animals and their often fragile environments is key, but it is the unique moments of discovery, fascination, understanding, and caring that have stuck in this writer's mind.

The Ocean Ecology class (just one of fifteen courses a camper can select from each week) has left many a camper spellbound by some astonishing fun facts, such as a blue whale's tongue is ten feet thick and heavier than an elephant. Discovery is also an important element of the Ocean Ecology experience, and one day, one particular O.E. class discovered a very big threat to the marine environment, collected as much of it as they could in the trash bags they carried, and brought the various forms of pollution back to camp to be disposed of properly. Before they dumped it, however, they shared their "treasure" with the rest of camp and asked, "How long do you think it took us to collect this garbage?" Replies filled the room, "An hour? A day? A week?" "About ten minutes," was the answer. That day, the whole camp was moved to write letters or express in picture form their feelings about laws and suggestions to make the planet a healthier place for everyone — animals and people — and these were sent to President Bush and other public leaders.

In the course of a week in the enthusiastic Group Adventures class, you might be lucky enough like Danielle, to cross a one-hundred-foot tight rope — with the help of your friends — and get to the "bake sale" on the other side. It definitely helps to have a good imagination in Group Adventures but, in any case, you will have one by the end of the week.

Some campers choose the scenic vista offered by the woodworking shop, but that's probably not really why they request the Woodworking class. It is more likely because "Bill The Drill" will be there and "Betsy The Saw," too. Carl and Lewis, The Drill Bits, might help you with any of

Andrew Crowley, 6, John Curran, 6, and Susannah Jackson, 7, meet the "two little pigs"; and Evelyn Hernandez (below), a student at the Curley School, gets acquainted with the new kid at the camp.

Campers Pat Curran and Max Riffin, both 8, (above) feed their flock; (below) counselor Rachel Parady imparts some 'horse sense' to students from Boston's Mary E. Curley School who attended a special pre-season Animal Friends Summer School program.

the projects you may choose. The projects are: bird feeder (which doubles as a lap desk), tool box, and napkin holder. By far the tool that steals the show is "Mr. Jim The Circular Saw," the meanest looking tool in the shop according to the master woodworking wizard Mike, who teaches the class. All the projects are fun to make and useful but one camper had a particularly good reason for making a napkin holder, "'Cause it's something the whole family can enjoy."

In Nature Crafts, beautiful works of art are designed directly from nature, using shells, dried flowers, rocks, creativity, originality, and motivation to please family members and give them something nice. Sometimes dramatic breakthroughs happen, such as the boys wanting to make barrettes for their sisters.

It must have been the campers who were good at remembering names who took the Care of Small Pets class. What with "Gonzo The Wonder Gerbil," "Angelo The Guinea Pig," "Norman The Puppy," "Seymour The Hamster," and "Pepe" and "ChiChi The Cockatiels" it could get very confusing. One day, during a game called "animal jeopardy," it did get very confusing. "What kind of dog is Norman The Puppy?" asked Donna the teacher of Care of Small Pets. "A Holly," replied camper Mike. "No, a Collie," corrected Donna and everyone laughed together at the mix-up.

Some children have unique ways of expressing themselves at an early age. Take, for instance, Adam who verbalized his experience in the Photography class as "tubular," which everyone present took to mean "good" even "awesome." The Photography class as a whole met with some unique experiences this year as the campers themselves came up with ideas never tried before. One such idea was to take a regular-sized print and double expose the same print four times. Then the campers had the option of making a design with their results. I must say, I saw some pretty "tubular" pieces of work come out of the Photography class.

For the "whiz" kids and others, there was Computer class which offered "Animal Kingdom" and "Animal Friends" computer games, signmaking and much more. There is a wiseguy in every crowd and Computer class was no exception which was proved when Emma made a "Merry Christmas" sign adorned with Christmas trees and snow . . . in the middle of July!

For the first year in quite a while, Puppetry class was offered and became an immediate favorite among parents. As Darlene, Puppetry class teacher, so aptly put it, "What else are you going to do with these socks that have no match?" Darlene is, of course, referring to making sock puppets — a favorite among the campers. Other favorites are felt and paper maché puppets. Darlene recalled one little boy who had a special mission for his felt puppet, "My little sister is sick and I want to bring her something special," he said. That week, he took all three puppets home and presented them to her as a surprise.

In a class called Farm Life, campers learned that a farmer sells milk by the pound. Farmer Patti, the teacher, typically asked the campers how much they think a gallon of milk weighs. One of the best responses of the summer was spoken by Michael who said, "A gallon of milk weighs ten feet." Throughout the summer we anticipated Mildred the cow giving birth to a calf. Farmer Patti excitedly asked her campers "What do you think the calf will be — a boy or girl?" "I just hope it's not a mouse!" exclaimed one concerned camper. Lily, a female calf, was born August 4, 1990. Mildred was a wonderful mother.

Pet Therapy is a very special class offered at the Summer School. Each day as many as five campers, Norman The Puppy, Gonzo The Wonder Gerbil, Puppa The Angora Rabbit, and Pet Therapy's teacher, Darlene, all load up into the van and take off on a mission to make "all the elderly people happy," as camper Maura expressed it. They visit various nursing homes in the area throughout the week. Everyone involved benefits from this program. Nurses say that the residents look forward to it every week, and even if they don't want to see the animals, they love seeing the campers. The program is great for the campers because they learn what a nursing home is all about. As Darlene said, "It aids in understanding what happens in a nursing home, especially that it is not necessarily 'bad' to be there." A shining example of the touching moments that occur in this special program happened at the Falmouth Nursing Home. An elderly woman was sitting, under restraints, "in her own world" when Darlene and some of the children approached her and asked, "Do you want to see Norman The Puppy?" The woman did not say anything but, despite crippling handicaps, she managed to slowly reach up and touch Darlene's arm very lightly. The campers held Norman The Puppy so that the woman could pet him. Looking at her face, Darlene could see a change in her eyes and then the woman spoke and said, "Soft." Darlene was deeply moved by what she witnessed between the older woman and the children. She said, "It was as if a window opened, for only a moment, for this woman who seemed mostly out of touch with reality." Opening that window had been a gift shared by everyone involved.

There is much more to the Animal Friends Summer School experience, but I think the best way to sum it all up is this: At the end of one of the last Ocean Ecology classes, one of the campers asked, "What time is it?" "It's time to end class, I am afraid," I responded. "Why does time go so fast in this class?" I was asked by another camper. "It is because we are all having so much fun!" I responded.

Jeremiah Hasson, 6, and Andrea Farrington, 7, lend a hand at feeding time (below); (at right) twins Emma and Michael Firestone, 6, learn where breakfast comes from.

Ms. Delaney is assistant director of the Animal Friends Summer School.

PET SHOW '90

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Here are some scenes from the League's 38th Annual Pet Show, held July 21 at Nye Field in North Falmouth. Nearly 70 fourfooted and twofooted pets, accompanied by their young owners, competed for prizes in the event, which is sponsored by the League each year to recognize and encourage responsible pet ownership on the part of young people.

1. *The blue ribbon in the cat competition went to Dana Jesperson's calico, "Patches."*
2. *The Best of Show trophy went to Kyle Maikath, 12, and his parakeet "Woodie," who had also flown away with first prize in the contest for miscellaneous pets with two feet or less.*
3. *"Minnie" gets a hug from owner John Shade, 14, after the sheltie placed second in the dog obedience contest.*
4. *Laura Wittman, 7, shows off "Charlotte" and "Rosedust," waterfrogs who placed second in the miscellaneous category.*
5. *This young contestant found a novel and thoughtful way to protect his pet from the glaring sun.*
6. *"Fuzz Ball" is riding high after the gerbil, owned by Alex Cohen, 10, won first prize in the miscelleanous fourfooted pet contest.*
7. *Kelly Lovett, 9, and her brother Brian pose with "Shawn," after the Irish setter placed second in the boy dog division.*
8. *Judges Carleton Buttrick and Arthur Slade, immediate past and current presidents of the League, spend time getting to know each contestant before making the very difficult award decisions.*
9. *Katie Plumb, 7, cuddles "Nitty" who placed second in the cat category.*

Among the options for pet owners who work all day are pet sitters or play groups like the dog day care program operated by Judy Basteri's Pet Companions, Inc. in Somerville. Photo by David Ryan, courtesy of the Boston Globe.

WHO'S MINDING THE DOG?

Combining a Canine with a Career

Single working people, and an ever-increasing number of families dependent on two incomes, have traditionally been reluctant to adopt dogs, and rightly so. Dogs, being highly social animals, suffer when isolated from companionship for eight or more hours at a stretch, not to mention the more pragmatic necessities of feeding, toileting and exercise.

Now, however, thanks to a proliferation of pet-related support services, there are a variety of alternatives available that can open the door to the joys of pet ownership for working people, and at the same time open more homes to animals in need of adoption. "Dog ownership is not for everyone," cautions Arthur G. Slade, League president. "We would certainly not encourage people who are never at home, who travel extensively on business, or have frequent evening and weekend engagements, to adopt a dog. More and more people, however, are discovering that with a little thought and ingenuity, it is possible to make creative arrangements that will keep your pet happy while you are away from home."

One such option is a pet sitter who will come in to the home to feed, walk and simply provide human companionship for the dog two or three times a day, depending on the owner's schedule. Before making the decision to adopt a dog, the League recommends investigating the availability of such services in your neighborhood, whether it be a commercial pet sitting company (there are now eight such services listed in the Greater Boston yellow pages) or a neighborhood group, local college student, or someone in the area who is at home all day and would be eager for the chance to earn extra income while enjoying animal companionship.

Another option, and the latest pet service to make its appearance on the local scene, is a dog day care or play group program like the one operated by Pet Companions, Inc. in Somerville which picks up the ten or so members of its current canine play group each day, and delivers them back home again after their play and exercise session. The dogs, which must be spayed or neutered and are screened to rule out aggressive behavior, quickly get to know and enjoy one another, according to owner Judy Basteri, a former teacher who started her pet care service five years ago. "Dogs are pack animals, and like to play with one another.

In the Mailbox:

Alexis Finds a Home

League member John MacDonald of Needham Heights shares the following tale with Our Foorfooted Friends:

"My mother is 95 years old and a patient at Briarwood Healthcare in Needham. During my daily visits there a stray cat began hanging around, so I started feeding her outside and soon the nurses' aides began putting food out for her. She was skin and bones, and half starved.

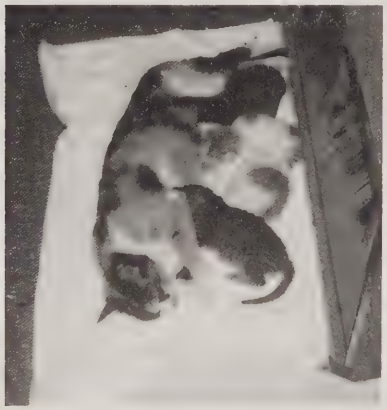
One day I picked her up and realized she was in a family way. Shortly after that, we missed her for a couple of days, but one day she appeared carrying (one at a time, by the scruff of the neck) four kittens across the backyard over to a tool house where she dug the ground away, and deposited the kittens. We continued to feed her, but it was late fall and the weather was turning cold, so the nursing home decided to let us bring them inside.

She nursed the kittens until it was time for them to leave her, and the nurses' aides adopted them, so each one got a good home. Two of the kittens have double paws which gave us a clue as to who the father is — a tiger with double paws who is now a daily visitor at the nursing home. The mother greets me every morning at 7 a.m. when I arrive at Briarwood. She has filled out and is really beautiful, and she has been given the name "Alexis." She gives a lot of pleasure to the patients, and even sleeps with them at night.

My sister and I are League members, so I thought you might like to hear this little story of Alexis — a real happy cat now!"

My best,
John MacDonald

Life is looking up for Alexis and her offspring at the Briarwood center in Needham.



Photos by John MacDonald

It's fascinating to see them interact," she notes. Best of all, the dogs go home content and tired from the day's activities. "I've had owners tell me that when I am coming to pick up their dog, it waits by the door for a half hour to an hour in anticipation," Basteri said in a recent interview by the *Boston Globe*.

Neighborhood pet grooming and supply stores are sometimes willing to "sit" for pets on a limited basis. One such spot, Especially for Pets, a department store for pets in Newton, regularly "minds" canine clients while their owners are out for the day, according to owner Emily Zofnas.

Whether pets are cared for in or out of the house during the day, it is vital that working pet owners set aside regular periods each evening and on weekends to spend time with their dogs, giving them the personal attention they need to feel secure and loved. For a variety of other ways to help the left-at-home feel less lonely, see the article on page 16 titled "Back to School Blues."

Some people have found that the answer to a pet's loneliness during the day is the presence of another companion pet, a compatible dog or even a cat. Two or more animals, given daily care by a visiting sitter, will often be quite content during most of the day with just each other's company.

Finally, a few fortunate folks enjoy the option of being able to bring their dogs to the office with them each day, but these are most often people who own their own businesses, or work in less traditional settings.

For those who do not have this option, but would like to adopt a dog if they were sure they could provide it with quality care and companionship, the League recommends exercising the same care they would employ if seeking a baby sitter or day care program for their children. Consult friends and neighbors for recommendations, visit and inspect day care sites to be sure the environment is clean and safe, and the staff is caring, and ask for references from previous clients. Once an arrangement has been made, monitor your pet carefully for behavioral changes or any other indication that it is not happy with the situation. If necessary, make spot checks or surprise visits home to be certain that everything is being done for your pet that should be done.

With a little extra effort and ingenuity, it is possible to join the happy ranks of those who are managing to successfully combine the challenges and rewards of being both a working professional, and a responsible pet owner.

NEWSFRONT

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

PETS ARE THE BEST MEDICINE

Elderly persons who own pets reported 16 percent fewer doctor visits over a one-year period than those without pets, in a recent study of 1,036 persons over 65, conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles. The results of the study, reported in the *Boston Globe*, indicated that even among those who had suffered recent major stress, pet owners required medical attention less frequently than non-pet owners. Also, those who owned dogs had fewer physician visits than those who owned other pets, reporting 21 percent fewer doctor contacts than non-pet owners.

EUROPE BANS IMPORT OF FURS FROM LEGHOLD TRAPPING

The Environment Committee of the European Parliament this spring approved a ban on the importation of furs caught in steel-jaw leghold traps. According to a report in the Animal Welfare Institute Quarterly, the ban will not become effective until December 31, 1994, but until that date the Committee voted to implement an interim fur labeling system to indicate which furs have been derived from animals trapped in inhumane devices.

In a related news item in the United States, the Woodstream Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of steel-jaw leghold traps, has been purchased by the Ekco Group, Inc., a parent company of Ekco Housewares. Those who wish to urge the Ekco Group to drop the leghold trap from its product line can write to: Robert Stein, President, Ekco Group Inc., 98 Spit Brook Rd., Suite #102, Nashua, NH 03062.

DEER CAPTURED IN BELMONT

League agents Mark Williamson and Ray Orlando, with members of the Belmont Police Department, tracked a one-year-old male deer for two hours through the streets of Belmont this summer before capturing the buck in the backyard of a Trapelo Road home. The animal, which was stunned after leaping a retaining wall and bounding into a fence, was taken to the Tufts Veterinary School Wildlife Clinic. Several area residents had called in reporting sightings of the deer, along with a doe which evidently left town on its own, in various neighborhoods around the city. Such sightings of wild animals in urban areas have become increasingly common as open spaces dwindle.

MONTHLY BATH HELPS ALLERGIES

Researchers at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis have recommended that people who are allergic to cats should wash their pets once a month. According to an article in *Health* magazine, bathing a cat once a month in warm water — soap is not necessary — seems to stop the cat's production of the skin protein which causes allergic reactions.

WSPA PROTESTS SOUTH AFRICA SEAL KILL

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has sent a formal protest to the South African Ambassador to the United Nations urging the government to prohibit permanently any commercial killing of seals in South Africa, after a scheduled killing of 30,000 Cape fur seals was temporarily postponed this past summer.

Stating that recommendations from a recent commission that culling of the seal herds is necessary for the fishing industry are flawed and based on incorrect information, WSPA stated: "The conclusion that a reduction in the numbers of seals would guarantee an increase in fish stocks has long been discredited. Stocks are affected less by seals than by over-fishing, largely due to activities of foreign factory ships and trawlers . . . As to the commercial benefit of seal products, the international outrage against killing these animals for fur or other by-products needs no recapitulation . . . The manner in which South African seal hunts are conducted, no matter for what purpose, is inhumane, and we will continue to oppose this slaughter for moral reasons as well as scientific ones."

IT'S A SNAP!

Photo by Ray Wallman, courtesy of Salem Evening News

James Stasio, manager of the League's Sheldon Branch in Salem, removed this 47-lb. snapping turtle from the backyard of a home on Appleton Rd. in Salem, after being summoned by the Salem Police who had received several calls about the turtle. When he arrived on the scene, he found about 15 or 20 concerned citizens gathered to watch the capture. After a health evaluation, the turtle was released the same day in the nearest body of water, Sargent's Pond in Greenlawn Cemetery, where Stasio witnessed several other turtles, of the red-painted variety, sunning themselves nearby.

SHAWMUT BANK SPOTLIGHTS LEAGUE

Visitors to the lobby of the Shawmut Bank in downtown Boston had an opportunity to learn about the League's history and current programs this summer thanks to the bank's generosity in hosting a major exhibit on the League's humane work. On view from June 18 to July 20, the exhibit included turn-of-the-century photographs and other archival materials, as well as news of current day adoption, rescue, humane education, health care and law enforcement programs.

A WORD TO THE WISE

League law enforcement agent Alan Borgal advises meter readers on the best ways to avoid being bitten by hostile dogs in the course of their daily rounds, during a training conference held for members of the New England Waterworks.

Back To School Blues

Rebecca watched quietly as Dr. Watson examined her dog, Blue. Blue is a one-year-old mongrel, a mix between german shepard and collie, that Rebecca's family adopted from the local animal shelter. They adopted Blue in June shortly after school let out for summer vacation.

She enjoyed having Blue as a pet because he was a new friend for her to play with. He had a lot of energy and Rebecca liked to play catch with him, take him for a swim at the lake, or just to talk to him as she brushed his hair. She loved having Blue as a friend.

Now, however, Rebecca was worried. Although Blue did not appear to be sick, she was afraid that something was wrong with him. Blue had started to behave differently and she did not know why. So she spoke with her parents about it and they decided to take Blue to the veterinarian for a check-up.

"Well," Dr. Watson said as she lifted Blue off the exam table and placed him back on the floor, "I would have to say from my examination that you have a very healthy dog. Why don't you tell me a little more about why you brought Blue in today."

"Okay," said Rebecca. "Lately Blue has been chewing up everything in our house. The neighbors have also been complaining to mom and dad that Blue barks a lot when we are not home. He has always been a good dog and this is not like Blue at all."

"I see. When did all of this start happening?" asked Dr. Watson.

"He started doing this about two weeks ago, the day after we went back to school. I remember because when I came home that day I found one of my sneakers all chewed up on the living room floor. Since then he has been chewing on shoes, toys, and even our furniture. He has even gone to the bathroom in the house a few times and he hasn't done that since he was a young puppy," Rebecca reported.

"I think I know what is wrong with Blue," stated Dr. Watson.

"What is it?" asked Rebecca. "Is it serious?"

"No. It is nothing that a little tender loving care won't fix. You see I think Blue has a case of the 'Back to School Blues,'" said Dr. Watson.

"Huh, how can that be? Blue doesn't go to school, I do." Rebecca sounded confused.

Dr. Watson explained to Rebecca that dogs are social animals. That is animals that need to be around people, dogs or other animals for company. She also told Rebecca that Blue was used to having someone around the house all summer long and enjoyed their company. However, now that Rebecca and her sisters were back in school Blue was alone for most of the day. Dr. Watson told her that when a dog becomes bored or lonely

they can become depressed and frustrated. She also said that Blue's new habit of chewing on things was a way of trying to relieve his boredom and also a sign of his unhappiness. She explained to Rebecca that Blue began barking a lot because he was trying to get some attention from another animal or person so that he would not be lonely.

"Is there anything we can do so Blue won't feel lonely or get bored while we are away from home?" asked Rebecca.

"Yes, I have a few suggestions that you can try to help Blue get used to being by himself." Here are the tips that Dr. Watson gave to Rebecca to help Blue get used to being by himself:

1. Make sure that your dog gets plenty of exercise. Take your dog out on a leash for walks or play catch with him. Remember that, like people, animals need exercise to keep them healthy.
2. Put your dog through obedience training. This will make it easier for you to control your pet so that he will behave properly for you. It will also let him know that you are his master and make him feel secure and loved.
3. Set aside a special time each day, maybe after school, to spend time with your pet. Give him the attention he needs by petting and playing with him.
4. When you leave home, leave a radio on so that your dog will not feel completely alone. Leave a light on if you will be away at night.
5. Buy your dog some hard rubber or rawhide dog toys to play with. This will give him something to do when you are not around.
6. If you leave your dog outside make sure that he has a good shelter to protect him from the weather. Also make sure that he is properly secured so that he cannot get away.
7. Always leave fresh water for your dog so he won't get thirsty, and make sure that he is being properly fed.
8. Practice leaving your dog alone. Go outside where your dog cannot see or hear you. If you hear him start to bark go back and give a stern **no**! or **quiet**! command. Gradually increase the time you are outside so that your dog can get used to being alone.
9. If you catch your dog chewing on something he shouldn't, give him a stern **no**! command. Then take away the object and give him one of his dog toys that he can chew on.
10. Walk your dog before leaving home so that he can go to the bathroom outside and not inside while you are away.

Rebecca thanked Dr. Watson for her help as she and Blue left to go home. On the ride home she and her dad talked about how they would help Blue adjust to being alone at home. She was glad that Blue was okay and happy that she could do something to help her friend.

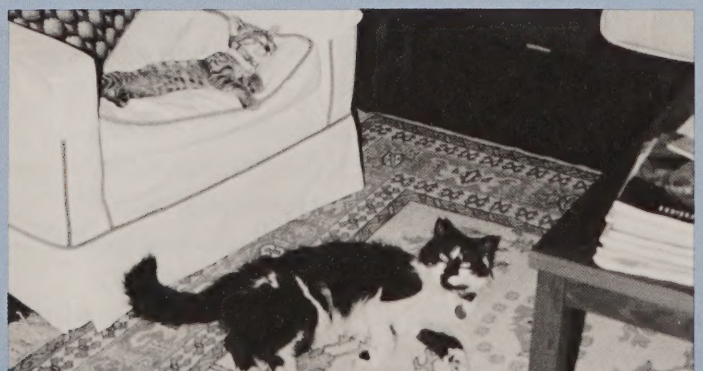
PETS IN THE PICTURE

1 Christine Enwright of Dorchester writes thart she was chosen by "Trixie" last June. "When I looked into her cage, she reached out and tapped me on each cheek with each paw. She grew up to be the perfect cat . . . thank you!"

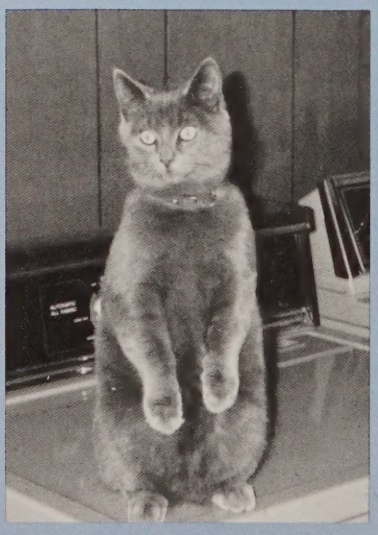
2 "Just a note to thank you for my beautiful, loving dog, "Sheeba," writes Margaret Connolly of South Boston, whose pet is pictured here with Mrs. Connolly's great-grandson. "She is most affectionate and obedient, and everyone who sees her tells me how lucky I am to have her."

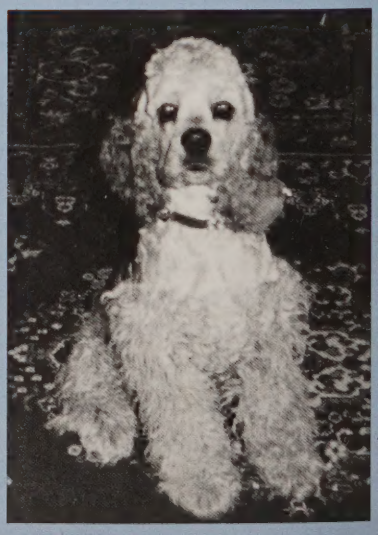
3 Claire Wagstaff of Everett writes: "Enjoy your magazine *Our Fourfooted Friends* so very much — also, as you can see, so does 'Marina Corps' (Carrie for short)."

4 "Ashley" has the world at her feet in the home of new owner Cherie Gauthier of West Roxbury who writes: "I cannot believe how quickly I've fallen in love with her. When I adopted her, I was actually looking for a dog. She must have known that. She seems to think she is a dog — she plays fetch, comes when I call, and enjoys walking on a leash . . . Ashley is a delight, and I cannot imagine life without her."



5 "Punkie" and "Frieda" were adopted last May by Leslie Papke of Belmont who writes: "The cat and (unrelated) kitten adapted overnight — to each other, to us, and to the location of the litter. Are they *always* this adaptable? We're *thrilled!*"





6,7 "Charley" and "Clyde" (l to r) are the photogenic pets of Ronald and Cherie Boisvert of Pelham, NH, whose cousin Virginia Zazula of Revere submitted this photo.

COME TO THE ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON'S

ANNUAL FAIR

To Benefit Homeless Animals

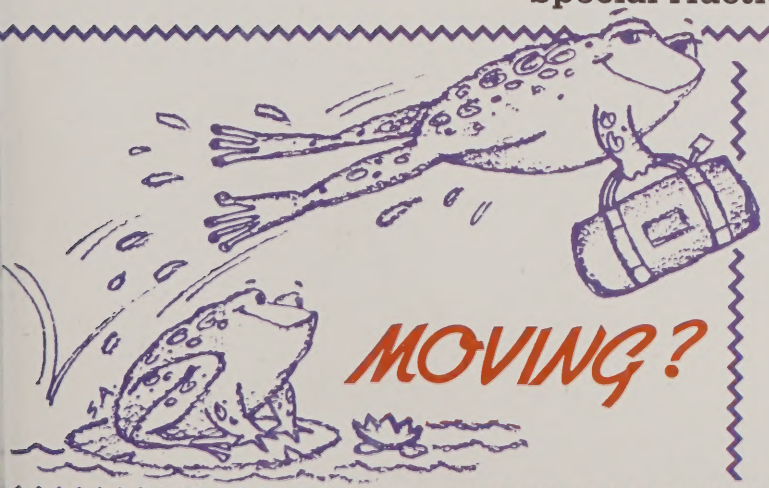
Thursday, October 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Corner of Arlington & Tremont Sts. Boston

Gift Tables • Baked Goods • Shelter Tours

Demonstrations by Boston Police Horses & Dogs

Special Auction at 12 Noon



MOVING?

Please let us know if you're planning to move so we can be sure that you receive OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS without interruption.

Old Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(please print or attach mailing label)

New Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please allow two months for us to correct our mailing list.

PATIENT VIGIL *Photo by Meredith Lang of Randolph who titled this picture "Randi and Buster Lang, Watching for Chickie."*

Our Fourfooted Friends (US ISSN 0030-6851)
Animal Rescue League of Boston
P.O. Box 265, Boston, Massachusetts 02117